

6th District Update

FEAREY'S FIRST EDITION

Winter/Spring 2006

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So...all you tax payers sent me off to Charlotte, NC for five days in early December. Now that I'm back, the holidays are over, and I'm getting caught up with my work; you probably want to know what you got for your money. Therefore, I'm going to use this issue's editorial column to try to hit the highlights of the meeting.

My first day was spent at an all day workshop entitled "Mobilizing Citizens and Building Community Involvement." It was exciting to see ways and opportunities to get and keep people involved without having to resort to the "crisis of the month" method of getting people to meetings only because something "bad" is happening in the neighborhood. I have a lot of good worksheets available that would help a neighborhood define strategies and action steps, identify volunteers strengths, help recruit volunteers and help communicate with neighbors. There was also a lot of good information presented about recognizing and rewarding volunteers. If anyone would like to look at this material, just let me know. I bought a pamphlet from the meeting presenter called "201 Secrets for Building Community Involvement." I'll try to hit a couple of these in each Update (look for "Secret #xxx").

The next several days were filled with meetings and events that were educational, entertaining and that showcased Charlotte. Some of the highlights were hearing Peter of Peter, Paul, and Mary sing and lecture about the importance of listening to and educating our children and learning to accept people for what is on the inside, not on the outside (sounds trite, but was quite moving). Robert Reich, the nation's 22nd Secretary of Labor and a professor of Public Policy at Berkeley, spoke on the need to rethink our nation's competitive advantage by realizing that foreign workers may always be cheaper and that the way to keep our advantage is by having the best educated and most innovative workforce possible. There was also some time to explore Charlotte. It is amazing how much can be learned by just seeing how other cities handle traffic, beautify their downtowns, build their arenas, have family oriented activities, and use public art.

There were also sessions on partnering with local school districts for the future of our children, getting the most out of a city's parks and recreation facilities to help deal with a community's problems, and using the arts to enhance economic vitality. Mobile workshops were offered throughout the week and I was able to attend one about providing affordable housing while revitalizing neighborhoods.

The workshop was informative and gave me lots of good ideas that I hope to incorporate in my district and city activities. Lynn Rogers (USD 259 BOE member) and I have already met to discuss increasing communications and look at possible partnerships between the city and school district. Terri Dozal and I are in the process of organizing a neighborhood's award banquet. I plan to have Janet Miller, Park Board President, look over the information about parks and see what Wichita might be able to incorporate in the Master Plan we are hoping to develop. It was great to be able to attend the meeting and I thank you all for providing me the opportunity to go. There are always lots of things to learn from other cities, but even more things to be grateful for about Wichita.

Old Town Officer Recognized

The Wichita Eagle ran a notice stating that on November 8, 2005 **Officer Bill Stevens** from the Wichita Police Department South Patrol was the recipient of the *"Donovan Drive Outstanding Customer Service Award for the 3rd quarter of 2005."* Officer Stevens serves the Old Town area of District VI and was given the award by Robert Donovan, Vice President and General Manager of Donovan Auto and Truck Center. Mr. Donovan stated "because of Officer Steven's actions, businesses in the targeted area have seen a significant reduction in crime and an increase in quality of life. His efforts have decreased the number of robberies by 50% and decreased non-residential burglaries by 25%. It's people like him who make who make our community a better place to live." Congratulations Officer Stevens!

MISCELLANEOUS SALE, GARAGE SALE, ETC.

A miscellaneous sale is any garage, basement, yard, rummage, or other similar sale of 6 or more items that were originally purchased by the applicant for his/her use or consumption. No person's) of the immediate family residing with the applicant shall have more than 2 sales in a calendar year -and a least 6 months apart -and for no longer than 3 consecutive days for each sale on residential property. Schools, churches, and non-profit organizations may have sales for the benefit of the organization only, with no restrictions on the number of days, when the sale is held on the school, church, or commercial property, and providing that the organization pays the fee as required. Licenses may be purchased at area Dillon grocery stores, Wichita Eagle, Pennypower, and 12th floor City Hall. Advertising posters are required to be placed in certain areas -see "Correct Placement of Signs". The fee is \$1.50 per day. Please remove your garage sale signs once your sale is over.



New Skate Park Opens in Orchard Park

A second skate park has opened in Wichita, thanks to a collaboration involving the City of Wichita, several local business partners, a neighborhood association and a youth group.

Orchard Skate Park, which is 40-feet long and 66-feet wide, opened recently near the Orchard Recreation Center at 4808 W. Ninth Street.

The skate park stemmed from a team effort that featured several organizations, companies and groups. Major contributors were Cornejo & Sons Inc, Voegeli Concrete Construction, Wichita Area Builders Association, Cox Communications, Fraternal Order of Police #5, Quiktrip, the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association and an Orchard Park skateboard group that led a fundraising effort. The skate park cost about \$13,500, which includes a \$4,000 contribution from a City Park fund.

A youth skateboard group teamed with Wichita Police Department Officers to spearhead a fund-raising effort. That effort generated about \$2,000 from a youth group that washed cars and sold wristbands and T-shirts.

The neighborhood project started in December 2004 when a youth skate group and WPD officers begin meeting to address teenage vandalism, loitering and other criminal activity in the Orchard Park area, bordered by I-235, West Street, Central and Zoo Boulevard.

"At the first meeting, only two youth and three parents showed up," said Officer Paul Zamorano. "But beat officers didn't let this dissuade them. At the second meeting, more than 50 youth and their parents were in attendance."

Skate park backers secured support from the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association and District Advisory Board VI before seeking financial assistance from local businesses. About 125 fund-raising packets were sent to local businesses.

Beat officers have helped reduce crime in the Orchard Park neighborhood by 77% by increasing patrol in the area, building rapport with the area youth, implementation of Neighborhood Park and School Watch and strengthening partnerships with city staff at Orchard Park Recreation and the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association.

The new skate park will be a good place for people who want to learn skateboarding. Wichita's first official skate park, located under the Kellogg Freeway overpass between St. Francis and Emporia, is a regional attraction designed to draw advanced and professional skateboarders. It features deep "bowls" and skate park landscaping.

Other contributors to the Orchard Park Skate Park, which is designed for beginning skateboarders, included Warren Theaters, The Wichita Eagle, former Park Board member Bob Aldrich, Orchard Park Neighborhood Association president Donna Aldrich, attorney Dan Monnat, Riverside Citizens Association, Greenway Alliance, Sunflower Neighborhood & Business Association, Grace Wu Kung-Fu School, Signature Exploratory Theatre and Arts, Signs Designs and The Pusher skateboard retailer.

New Floodplain Maps May Affect Property Owners

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has collected detailed ground elevation information and conducted thorough technical reviews to update flood zone maps that are the basis for flood insurance requirements.

"We encourage Sedgwick County residents to review the preliminary flood maps and to be familiar with risks within their community," said Scott Lindebak, drainage engineer for the City of Wichita Storm Water Management division. "These maps can help residents make informed decisions about flood insurance and flood protection."

The preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps are the result of an extensive study of seven major watersheds in Sedgwick County and over 19 years of revisions to the previous flood maps.

Residents and property owners may submit scientific or technical information if they believe the revised flood maps contains errors. Appeals are to be submitted in writing through the communities to FEMA. The appeals must be received and submitted by the community no later than Feb. 15, 2006. After resolving any appeals, FEMA will notify communities, insurance companies and residents of the effective date of the final maps.

Secret Tip # 13

Never miss a chance to collect names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Pass around sign-in sheets at meetings and events.

Have drawings for prizes where names and contact information are put into a hat.

Reforestation of City Parks and Rights of Way

Park Director Doug Kupper reported to the Wichita Park Board that the City plants approximately 2,500 trees annually. He said roughly 10% are planted in parks and on golf courses, while 90% are planted along streets and right-of-ways. The Board was then asked if they had other ideas or direction concerning the planting program.

The concerns of the board included: replacement of the urban forest; replacement of trees in Riverside Park during the recent renovation; the number of trees lost in the 2005 ice storm (estimated to be approximately 4,800) and how and when they would be replaced; the number of trees removed annually due to disease and other causes; and tree plantings by private vendors during street improvement projects.

Director Kupper stated that no additional funding had been allocated to replace trees lost in the ice storm. He also told the Board staff moves trees that must be removed to other locations whenever possible. For example, the trees planted at Grove Park came from Rock and 29th Streets.

The Park Board recommended that for the next two planting seasons 40% of the new trees be planted in parks and golf courses and 60% on streets and right-of-ways.

Reforestation of our parks and streetscapes is an important issue for neighborhoods both old and new. If your neighborhood group would like more information about the program or would like to know what your association could do to help with tree planting in your area, please contact the Park Department.



Crown Communities Award

Wichita was one of six cities to be chosen to receive an American City and County's Magazine's annual **Crown Communities Awards**.

Wichita received the award for the cleanup of the Gilbert and Mosley groundwater pollution area and the accompanying WATER center at a special banquet during the National League of Cities meeting in Charlotte, NC.

The project was then featured in the magazine's December 2005 edition. This is some well-deserved recognition for the partnership of city staff along with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and several national and local companies to take a potentially devastating problem for our downtown area and turn it into an award-winning endeavor.

Railroad Tracks at 29th Street

The City of Wichita's Public Works Department has made a proposal to three of the railroads with the worst of the railroad crossings at 29th Street and Broadway.

They are waiting to get a firm commitment from the railroads that they will partner with the city to make the necessary repairs. Once that happens, a two-year program will be brought to the City Council for approval.



Rezoning at 53rd and Meridian

The rezoning for the piece of land on the northwest corner of 53rd and Meridian was denied by City Council with a 7-0 vote on December 13.

The denial was based on the following issues:

- The zoning uses and character of the neighborhood is predominantly developed as single family
- Many of the residents facing directly toward the project across Meridian area did protest
- The rezoning will detrimentally affect nearby property by increased traffic, noise, the presence of a tire and lube facility and additional truck traffic
- The scale of the development (level of intensity) greatly exceeds what is currently there

The developer had three courses of action that could be taken after the vote: appeal the decision to district court, wait 6 months and resubmit the proposal with substantial changes, or wait 12 months and resubmit the proposal as is or with any changes of their choice.

At this time, the developers have decided not to appeal the decision. They will take some time to decide what changes they may want to make to the proposed development. They have said that they will hold a public meeting sometime before the case comes back to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. This will give residents the opportunity to hear first hand about the proposal, to ask questions, and to express their opinions about the proposed development. After that meeting, the proposal will again be heard by the District Advisory Board, the MAPC and then the City Council.

Anyone who is interested in this zoning case would be encouraged to attend the public meeting. It is hoped that the Wichita Eagle will announce the meeting. As soon as a place and time are established for the meeting (most likely no sooner than May, 2006), the 6th District Neighborhood Assistant (303-8042) will notify the DAB members and 6th District neighborhood presidents. The developers will also be encouraged to notify the residents in the neighborhood directly to the east of the proposed rezoning.



River Corridor

Progress

The River Corridor Project reached another milestone Thursday morning, Jan. 19. Dondlinger construction crews set one of two tower legs for the pedestrian bridge.

The pedestrian bridge is designed to provide access to two key features of the improvements - the Keeper of the Plains and an interpretive plaza telling the story of the Plains Indians. The setting of the second tower leg was scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20, followed by the tower top the week of January 23. The tower component weighs 275,000 pounds and stands 330 feet. PDM of Wisconsin assembled the tower.

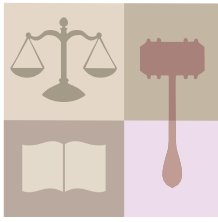
The cable-secured pedestrian bridge, which will span 250 feet across and stand 120 feet above the Arkansas River, will feature a concrete deck scheduled to arrive in May.

The River Corridor Project, which cost about \$25 million, is a series of public improvements designed to enhance and link other attractions surrounding the Arkansas River. The project is scheduled to be completed late fall of 2006.

Street and Intersection Improvements Slated

The intersection at 13th and Mosley will be improved in 2006. The project will provide turn lanes on 13th at Mosley. The traffic signals will be upgraded to provide left turn signal phases at all four approaches to the intersection. The estimated project cost is \$1,700,000 with \$800,000 paid by the City and \$900,000 by Federal Grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Also scheduled for improvement in the future is West Street between Maple and Central. The design concept is to replace the existing pavement on West Street with a new five-lane roadway, with four through lanes and a center two-way left turn lane. The traffic signals at the West Street/Douglas and West Street/2nd Street intersections will be upgraded. A new storm water sewer will be installed as part of the project. Although the project will need to be returned to the City Council for final approval before construction, the design budget with funding included to begin acquisition of required right-of-way has been approved.



City's Amnesty Program

To encourage citizens to voluntarily resolve outstanding warrants, the city's Municipal Court is proposing to host an Amnesty Week during the week of February 13-17, 2006. This Amnesty Program is a collaborative effort with the faith based community, Police Department, the Court and City staff. Representatives of the Wichita faith based community will be an integral part of this collaboration. Local churches in partnership with the National Restoration Movement are implementing a "28 Days of Peace" initiative during the month of February 2006. Clergy will preach sermons of peace, dig-

nity, respect and social responsibility to their congregations and communities. Citizens will also be encouraged to resolve outstanding Municipal Court obligations.

During the Amnesty Week, the City of Wichita will waive the warrant fee. Defendants with outstanding ticket warrants, who voluntarily appear, will not be arrested. Defendants with outstanding bench and probation violation warrants will be given an opportunity to appear before a judge. The Amnesty Program will be implemented as follows:

- Names of individuals with outstanding warrants will be published in the February 5, 2006 edition of the Wichita Eagle.
- Municipal Court will offer extended hours during the 'Amnesty Week:' Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Amnesty Program is planned for February 13 through February 17, 2006.
- In conjunction with the "28 Days of Peace" initiative, the Wichita Police Department will be hosting a gun drop off program. Citizens will be encouraged to drop guns off at participating local churches. WPD will rotate four locking containers among these churches for gun storage until an officer can pick them up. The gun drop off will run the entire month of February.

A judge will be available to hear those cases where a bench warrant and/or a probation violation warrant was issued.

Anyone with an outstanding warrant is encouraged to take part in this program in order to take care of their obligations to the city.

Pick Up After Your Pet



Picking up dog waste is the neighborly thing to do. It's easy and it's cheap!

You may think it's not a big deal to let your dog relieve himself in a public place or in your neighbor's yard. And it's not a big deal to leave those droppings behind as you continue walking your dog. But there are about 44,000 dogs living in Wichita...that's more than 44,000 dog piles each day that are oftentimes left in yards, on streets and in parks.

With so many dogs living in Wichita, it's safe to assume that there are many pet lovers in this community. The City of Wichita hopes that these pet owners can begin policing themselves and voluntarily begin picking up after their pets.

Secret Tip # 122

Start a neighborhood welcoming project to serve new residents. Volunteers form a list of good restaurants, doctors, municipal phone numbers and other helpful contacts.

21st Street International Marketplace

The recently adopted **21st Street North Corridor Revitalization Plan** has identified the goal of creating an International Marketplace District centered at 21st Street North and Market Street. Focused around a proposed indoor Mercado (public market) facility, this District would offer distinctive dining, shopping and entertainment experiences particular to the cultures represented in the area, as a means of attracting local and regional shoppers and promoting economic renewal of the area.



Wichita region.

In September 2005, the City requested proposals for historic resource inventory, marketing, community outreach and architectural 'place-making' design services to the City and community stakeholders in creating the International Marketplace District. The key deliverables of this initiative are:

- Documentation of potentially eligible historic properties within and adjacent to the International Marketplace District.
- An integrated communications plan that includes strategic marketing, public relations and communications plan elements as well as a branding strategy including naming, icon/logo development and color schemes that will enable the International Marketplace District to eventually become the premier destination for ethnic and international retail business, services and cultural entertainment/artistic events in the

- An architectural design approach and site concept plan for public and private improvements in the International Marketplace District (including streetscape enhancements, building façade treatments/styles, landscaping treatments, gateway design, way-finding signage, lighting, parking, public jardin) that: reflects, supports and implements the marketing, branding and public relations strategy; creates a safe and inviting place; and, is sensitive to historically significant architectural elements and buildings in the area.

The International Marketplace District will initially encompass the retail segments of the 21st Street North corridor from Broadway to the Thai Bin Asian Market located at Somerset, and the Broadway Street retail corridor from 20th Street North to 22nd Street North. The consultant will be required to utilize an effective community outreach process in developing the various marketing and architectural elements of the International Marketplace District.

The City's Staff Screening and Selection Committee determined that the Greteman Group is best qualified and experienced to undertake this plan. The following summarizes the strengths of the Greteman Group consultant team as identified by the Selection Committee:

- « Demonstrated energy and passion for this project.
- « Excellent understanding and approach to the development of an integrated communications plan.
- « Excellent branding and marketing experience.
- « Good participation of minority-based and women-based small businesses.
- « Experienced and qualified local area team members (4 of the 5 firms in the team are Wichita-based).
- « Effective and creative community involvement/outreach approach proposed, including bilingual translation services.
- « Experienced design professionals.

The 21st Street Business Association held its first meeting with the Greteman group at Cortez Restaurant on January 24. The meeting was well attended and there was constructive dialog between the business group and the consultants. Everyone is excited to see new vitality and excitement come into this area. Several more meetings will be held in the area during the upcoming months. A survey has also been developed and translated into Vietnamese and Spanish. The survey will be put on-line and also mailed to area business owners and residents. Information regarding the survey and the meeting dates and times will be available through the Neighborhood City Hall (303-8042) or the Planning Department (268-4421). As this project will greatly affect not only this neighborhood, but the entire 6th District and the city as a whole, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and see first hand what great things are in store for the 21st Street corridor.
